

NOTES:

In this study, we're going to see that the author of Hebrews is exalting Jesus above everyone else. The author isn't diminishing angels, he is exalting Jesus high above them. If we get our understanding of Jesus right, then our understanding of angels will be even more powerful.

There are 3 categories to keep in mind when discussing Jesus.

1. The eternal Son - Jesus before creation and prior to His physical birth from Mary His mother.
2. The incarnate Son - Jesus once time and flesh are wrapped around Him as a man.
3. The exalted Son - Jesus after the resurrection, now sitting down on the throne of heaven.

There are angels who are seeking to deceive us—they are false angels who lure people into worship of things other than Jesus. What the author of Hebrews is teaching us is that if we get our understanding of Jesus right, then we will be able to see the difference between the allure of these false angels and what our focus is supposed to be on.

A good sign of growth in your relationship with the Lord is that you begin to love the things that He loves. As we mature as believers, our taste begins to change and we hunger for things that He hungers for. True joy only comes as grow in this maturity and our worship of the Father begins to properly develop. God shares this joy with us.

From birth, God has marked you out to be His child. He has assigned His angels to care for you daily. We don't worship these angels or focus on them. We can ask the Father to release His angels to care for other people, and this greater degree of faith brings about great changes. Our prayers affect the actions of angels. You have powerful resources—angels—around you to use in prayer

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why can't Jesus be equal to angels or other prophets? Why does it matter to have a proper understanding of who Jesus is?

How do the 3 categories of timeliness help you understand the history of Jesus as God's Son?

Why do false angels try so hard to get us to worship and focus on things other than Jesus?

As you have grown in your relationship with the Lord, how has your "hunger" for spiritually things changed?

Why does the Father want to share His joy with us? What does it in change in your life to experience His joy?

What kind of hope does it bring to you to know that God has marked you out to be His child and He has placed powerful angels around you to serve and protect you?

VERSES:

Hebrews 1:1-14

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

10 He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Psalm 91:11

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.